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30 July 1948

The Honorable Seth W. Richardson  
Chairman  
Loyalty Review Board  
United States Civil Service Commission  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Richardson:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 2 July 1948 (File LRS:KAF:bof) regarding proposed procedures within this Agency for the adjudication of loyalty cases under Executive Order 9835.

The phrase "except as modified by mutual agreement" was included in our draft procedures because of the provision in Section 102(a)(3) of the National Security Act of 1947 (Public Law 253, 80th Congress),

"That the Director of Central Intelligence shall be responsible for protecting intelligence sources and methods from unauthorized disclosure."

Because of this legal responsibility placed upon us by the Act, the question has been raised that this Agency should not be bound by future rules and directives which might place this legal responsibility in jeopardy.

While I agree with your statement that "a loyalty matter is, after all, only a loyalty matter, regardless of the agency involved," I am concerned with the very special security problems surrounding this Agency.

Because of the close relationship between CIA and the Civil Service Commission and the very real cooperation we receive from the Commission in all matters of mutual concern, I will be happy to delete the phrase "except as modified by mutual agreement" from our proposed draft. I only desire that my responsibility

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under Section 102 of the National Security Act of 1947 may be tacitly recognized, together with the possibility that circumstances may conceivably arise in connection with the national security which would compel me to exercise it.

This Agency is anxious to cooperate with your program to the fullest extent. We have followed your procedures completely in the loyalty cases which have been referred by the Commission.

Sincerely yours,

D. M. HILLENROETTER  
Rear Admiral, USN  
Director of Central Intelligence

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